



## USEFUL LTC FACTS

From "Ensuring a Responsive Long-Term Care System: New Challenge for a New Century," published in *Perspectives in Health and Aging*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 1997, A.A.R.P.

About 5.8 million persons age 65 and older, 5.3 million adults between 18 and 64, and 400,000 children currently need long-term care services, or services and support with physical or mental impairments that hinder independent functioning. Researchers estimate that by the year 2040, 12 million older Americans alone will need either formal or informal long-term care.

As many as 80% of older Americans needing long-term care services live in their own homes or in community settings, therefore relying on family, friends and the community for support. 73% of informal caregivers are women, and 12% are over age 65.

In nearly one in four U.S. households, there is at least one person over age 18 caring for someone age 50 or older. The average caregiver is a working woman in her mid-forties who also is caring for children under 18.

Since 1987, Medicaid spending for nursing home care has more than doubled. In 1996, Medicaid spent \$51.5 billion on long-term care, with 77.3%, or \$40.8 billion, covering institutional care.

And from *The Reporter*, Derby, Kansas May 6, 1998

"... according to the Congressional Subcommittee on Aging, 70 to 80% of nursing home residents deplete their assets within twelve months."